

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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Commissioner



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Child and Family Services
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November 9, 2021

Dear Resource Family,

Hello, as we are sure that you are aware by now, children aged 5-11 years are now eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective in preventing severe disease and death from COVID-19, and the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) encourages eligible youth to get the vaccine as soon as it is available.

On October 29, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use for children aged 5-11 years. The vaccine had previously been authorized for persons over the age of 12 years and has been proven to be safe and effective.

Please visit the Maine vaccination site to learn more about which sites in your area are offering the Pfizer vaccine and accepting appointments for youth. Many schools are offering COVID-19 vaccination clinics in cooperation with their local health care providers. Some local pediatrician offices will also be offering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children in the coming weeks.

Permission from a parent or guardian is required for individuals under age 18 to receive the vaccine. For youth where DHHS is the legal guardian, the youth must be accompanied by a caseworker or resource parent, except at school-based vaccination clinics where it is recommended, but not required, for a resource parent or caseworker to be present.

Resource Parents are authorized by OCFS to provide consent for immunizations.

If a youth or parent does not object, OCFS is enlisting the help of resource parents to ensure all eligible children receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please notify your OCFS caseworker when youth in your home have received the vaccine.

If a youth or parent objects to their child receiving vaccinations, the caseworker will notify the resource parent of the next steps following the "Immunization of Children in the Custody of the Department of Health and Human Services Policy", effective March 23, 2021.

Please review the COVID-19 Vaccination Information Sheet included with this letter to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and what to expect before, during, and after your appointment.

To request this document in another format, call (207) 287-5014.

Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Maine Relay) or email ADA-Civilrights.dhhs@maine.gov

For any questions or transportation needs, please contact your OCFS caseworker.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Johnson, LMSW
Associate Director of Child Welfare Services
Office of Child and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Adrienne W. Carmack, MD
Medical Director
Office of Child and Family Services
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